

Tuesday, Oct. 12th

8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Pre-conference Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid (pre-conference training) presented by Cheryl Turner & Rose Hood Buss

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour training course designed to give members of the public key skills to help an adolescent who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The 8-hour course covers a range of common disorders and potential crises such as helping a young person who is having a panic attack, is contemplating suicide or is struggling with substance abuse.

Cheryl Turner, MA, LIMHP, LPC, is a trauma attachment therapist who has worked with children, adolescents, families and adults within the Lincoln community for the past 16 years. Cheryl has completed extensive training in various areas of trauma and mental health and has focused her career on helping those most in need learn the skills necessary to be successful. Cheryl currently is employed at The Center on Children, Families, and the Law as a training specialist and provides training to Child and Family Services Specialists, Lincoln Public Schools, and is a certified Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor.

Rose Hood Buss, BA, has worked the last 15 years in human services, with the majority of her career working in youth development with direct client services and in purely administrative roles. The last four years she has spent much of her time training school professionals and community members on mental health promotion and substance use prevention and intervention. Rose is a trainer for QPR, Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Rose is currently a Prevention Specialist with Region V Systems.

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8:30 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

The following workshops will be provided at various times through the day

CEU's approved for each session.

Criminogenic Hours approved as listed.

*Criminogenic Hours:
JS = Juvenile Services;
SM = Standardized Model*

Keynote: Bias in Decision-Making presented by Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding - JS 1.25

This address explains how bias can influence decision-making in all youth-serving systems including juvenile justice, education and child welfare. Though we would like to believe that decisions that influence outcomes in juvenile justice, and those that impact school suspensions or expulsions are based solely on the facts, discretionary decision-making is highly susceptible to bias. Unconscious bias can distort perceptions of risk and delinquency, the use of racially coded language, and how laws and policies are enforced and applied differentially. Colorblindness, stereotyping, implicit bias and institutional racism can create a bias effect that results in disparities throughout the decision-making continuum and therefore how children and their families are served. Bias in Decision-making will explore the "bias effect" and provide participants with intervention strategies that can improve outcomes for youth in all systems.

Rita Cameron Wedding, Ph.D., is a professor of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University (California). Dr. Cameron Wedding's scholarship focuses on implicit bias in law enforcement, child welfare, education, and juvenile justice. Her curriculum on implicit bias is being used throughout the United States in her Implicit Bias Training the Trainer Institute. It is also integrated in the police de-escalation training for Fight Crime Invest In Kids which will be used to train over 5,000 in-service and academy officers in the U.S.

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Improving Responses to Youth Charged with Status Offenses (3 Different Sessions: Overview, Truancy Focused, & Runaway Focused) *presented by Marie Williams and Robin Olsen - JS 1.25 per session*

In the last ten years, the juvenile justice system has evolved in the way it addresses the issue of youth charged with non-delinquent offenses, driven in part by the federal law, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. These sessions will present an overview of that evolution, including the move away from incarcerative approaches and toward a more rehabilitative framework, with a focus on the unique challenges presented by the truants and runaways. Marie Williams, executive director of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice will discuss the national trend of new responses to these populations, and Robin Olsen will address findings about youth charged with status offenses in those jurisdictions where the Pew Charitable Trusts Public Safety Performance Project has worked.

Marie N. Williams, J.D., is Executive Director at the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ). She is responsible for developing, managing and implementing nationwide initiatives in juvenile justice leadership and reform with CJJ's members and partners. Ms. Williams is primarily responsible for the execution of CJJ's strategy to support robust appropriations for the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's funding streams, for CJJ's work to align the state and federal strategy for reauthorization of the Act, and for continued federal and state support to sustain optimal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems and practices. She has over 15 years of experience as a public policy advocate, including acting as a senior lobbyist for NARAL Pro-Choice America, working as a strategist and director of policy at a boutique Washington DC consulting firm, and as a senior policy associate at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Williams received her B.A. in Urban Studies and Sociology from Vassar College, and her J.D. from George Washington University's National Law Center. She is active in a number of volunteer efforts, including acting as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children in the District of Columbia and a volunteer mediator in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Robin Olsen manages the Pew Charitable Trusts' state policy work on juvenile justice. She collaborates with policymakers, agency leaders, and other stakeholders to identify and share juvenile justice policy solutions that fit the needs of each state. Before joining Pew, Olsen worked on criminal justice and social service research and programming in Miami-Dade, Florida as well as public safety policy development for the state of Illinois. She holds a Master's degree in politics from Princeton University.

Winnebago Youth Crisis Intervention Center & Reconnecting Youth, Inc. *presented by Kellie Snow and Jenni Malsam – JS 1.25*

The Youth Crisis Intervention Center (YCIC) is a direct goal of the Winnebago Juvenile Justice Team, and the Nebraska Crime Commission's requirements for state funding to have a 3-year Comprehensive Plan. We wanted an opportunity to help our youth and families here in Winnebago immediately and to not wait for a judge to tell the family to get help. The primary purpose of the YCIC is to provide an immediate, local response to juvenile delinquency. The goal of juvenile justice services that will flow through the YCIC is to provide a safe, nurturing

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environment for tribal youth offenders and their families to receive timely and appropriate interventions and services. There will be a concerted effort to match youth offender needs, based on their individual and risk and protective factors, with appropriate services including rehabilitation, treatment, and reentry. A Team Case Management approach will be employed. The need is for available and new resources for youth to be actively involved in a planning process. The YCIC includes three primary Service Units that have been designed to meet identified gaps in the current juvenile justice system continuum of services. These Service Units include: Centralized Intake, Assessment Center, and a Juvenile Holdover.

Reconnecting Youth (RY) is a science-based group approach to increasing school achievement and decreasing anger/aggression problems, depression, suicidal behaviors and drug involvement. It is a prevention program targeting youth in grades 9-12. The RY program begins with an individual invitation to join. It is a semester-long class offered as part of the regular school curriculum, taken for credit and a grade. RY is taught in a small-group context with teacher-to-student ratio of 1:10-12. Students set personal goals and support classmates towards their goals related to increasing School Achievement and Drug Use Control and decreasing Suicide Risk Behaviors. The program is grounded in a partnership model among students, school personnel and prevention specialists. RY Leader support is critical to the success of the program. Skills training is taught in the context of carefully nurtured peer group support. The Reconnecting Youth Program is grant funded provided by Jackson Recovery Center in partnership with Winnebago Public Schools.

Kellie Snow is the Juvenile Probation Officer for the Winnebago Tribal Court, the Supervisor for the Truancy Officer, and a current board member of the Truancy/Juvenile Services Program. She comes to the court with 5 years of service as a Winnebago Tribal Police Officer on the Winnebago Indian Reservation, serving from 1997-2002. She graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Indian Police Academy Class of 076. Ms. Snow is the designated Project Coordinator for the Nebraska Crime Commission Winnebago Tribe's Comprehensive Juvenile Service Program and has been in the field of Juvenile Probation since October 2010. She enjoys working with the youth in the community, and finds success when she works with families. She is also the coordinator of Project BLUE (Believe, Lead, Unite and Educate) and a facilitator of the Fatherhood/Motherhood id Sacred program. She is a mother of two beautiful girls, ages 24 and 4, and has a grandson, who turned 1 in June 2016.

Jenni Malsam is a Prevention Specialist with Jackson Recovery Centers in Sioux City, Iowa. She is currently providing the Reconnecting Youth program at Winnebago Public Schools. Previously, she worked in this capacity in the Sioux City Public Schools at West High. Jenni has been a sports official for basketball and volleyball at the college and high school levels in the tri-state area of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota for the past 34 years.

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Louisiana Detention Alternatives presented by William Sommers – JS 1.25

In April 2007, the Office of Juvenile Justice was selected as a site for the Models for Change initiatives. Models for Change is a national initiative funded by the MacArthur Foundation to accelerate reform of juvenile justice systems across the country. Focused on efforts in select states, the initiative aims to create replicate models for reform that effectively hold young people accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances, and manage the risk they pose to themselves and to public safety. Louisiana has become a hotbed of reform in not only delinquency but handling status offenders as well. This session will show how local jurisdictions in Louisiana have transformed their systems to become leaders of reform by pushing legislation for detention centers and raising the age of jurisdiction, becoming deep end sites, national regional training sites, mentor sites for human trafficking, and more.

William Sommers currently serves as the Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice Services under Calcasieu Parish Police Jury in Louisiana. He has been employed with the Police Jury since 1987. In April 2007, the Office of Juvenile Justice was selected as a site for the Models for Change initiatives. Models for Change is a national initiative funded by the MacArthur Foundation to accelerate reform of juvenile justice systems across the country. Focused on efforts in select states, the initiative aims to create replicate models for reform that effectively hold young people accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances, and manage the risk they pose to themselves and to public safety.

Law Enforcement and Youth: Strengthening Relations presented by Officer Antonio Espejo, Sergeant Tommy Trotter, Captain Jason Stille and Stanford Bradley – JS 1.25

Strong and safe neighborhoods begin with a foundation of trust between residents and first responders. Panelists will highlight programs in three different localities that foster relationships between law enforcement and youth. A majority of youth involved in these programs are youth in the juvenile justice system.

P.A.C.E. is a nonprofit sports program for inner city youth in the Omaha area. Their mission is to provide free athletic opportunities to at-risk youth and build positive relationships between police officers and the community they serve. Through athletics and officer volunteer coaches, kids build a trust and different perspective of law enforcement in their community. In 2016 P.A.C.E. provided free soccer and baseball for nearly 2,300 kids from the toughest neighborhoods in Omaha.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office collaborates with CEDARS Youth Services in a group known as the "Five-O Fun Club." The group teams up deputy sheriffs with several at-risk youths served by CEDARS to build relationships and break down barriers. The group mixes team building activities in a casual atmosphere with various community service projects. This session will detail the program since its inception including funding sources and lessons learned.

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Shields Unite is a program offered by the Salvation Army and Lincoln Police Department. The Shields Unite program is designed to better relationships between the kids in our community and law enforcement. We believe building these relationships will better our community and create a safe environment for everyone in our neighborhoods. In our first year, the Shields Unite program provided basketball and flag football to over 200 youth in Lincoln.

Officer Antonio Espejo is a Gang Detective with the Omaha Police Department. He has been with the Omaha Police Department for 16 years, 12 of which have been spent with the Gang Unit. He is the co-founder for the Police Athletics for Community Engagement (PACE) program which was started 11 years ago. Officer Espejo was recognized as the National Latino Peace Officer of the Year in 2010.

Tommy Trotter is a twenty-one-year veteran sergeant with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office in Lincoln, Nebraska. During his career Trotter has worked in every division of the Sheriff's Office including assignments as: K9 handler, Criminal Investigator, pursuit policy/driving instructor, hiring/training sergeant, records sergeant, civil division sergeant, field training sergeant and patrol duty commander. Trotter is also a peer member of the Nebraska Critical Incident Stress Management team and coordinates the critical incident program for the Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Trotter has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Graduate Certificate of Achievement in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia. Trotter is also a graduate of the 260th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Captain Jason Stille has been a member of the Lincoln Police Department since 1997. Captain Stille has been a member of the SWAT Team since 2003 and currently operates as team commander. During his career with LPD, he has served as a duty commander, training sergeant, TIU investigator, accident reconstructionist, traffic unit officer, and as an instructor in numerous disciplines. Captain Stille holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice/History from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He has also completed coursework from Northwestern University on Supervising Police Personnel and from Georgetown University on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities. He serves as an instructor for the International Association of Chiefs of Police in the area of leadership.

Stanford Bradley was born and raised right here in Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School in 2000. Stanford has worked for the Salvation Army nearly two decades, serving as the Community Center director for the last 10 years. Stanford is extremely involved in the community, engaging youth in tobacco-free and obesity campaigns as well as leading the Lincoln Rockets youth basketball program. Stanford was also the winner of the "2015 Gene Haynes Service to Youth Award" given by Owens Educational Services.

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Missouri's Detention Alternative & Mental Health Model *presented by Theresa Byrd – JS 1.25*

16th Circuit Court of Missouri, Family Court has been successfully engaged and is committed to the reduction of youth held in secure detention. This has resulted in a 70% reduction in the number of youth held in secure detention and reduced the length of stay by 34% while continuing to ensure community safety and youth report for the court hearing. This session will focus on the implementation and integration of Alternative to Detentions. The Family Court is moving towards becoming a trauma informed environment and has worked together to improve practices and services for youth with mental health needs by establishing and maintaining strong collaboration with the mental health providers to provide mental health assessments and treatment for the youth and families.

Theresa Byrd is the Director of Field Services for the Jackson Court Family Court Services. She has been employed for 45 years in various capacities. Her responsibilities are the overall operations of a continuum of services for youth and families referred or under the supervision of Jackson County Family Court Services. Her career with the Family Court began in 1971 when she started as a back-up (part-time) Youth Worker. Progressing to a full-time Youth Worker in the Group Homes and was promoted to Social Worker in Residential Services. In 1974 she began working as a probation officer and moved into Residential Services as a Caseworker Supervisor and later Assistant Facility Manager of a 70-bed co-ed non-secure setting. In 1991 she was promoted to Director of Community Outreach and Development and served in that capacity until 1999 when she became the Director of Field Services.

Implementing the Risk Principle: Measurement, Assessment, and Appropriate Response *presented by Alexander M. Holsinger, Ph.D. – JS 1.25*

This session will introduce the Risk principle of intervention. The relationship between criminogenic (crime-producing) needs and overall risk will be explored, as will the best ways to measure risk factors, and how best to respond at the agency and individual level. The newest and most effective interventions will be covered, and how they fit into the "risk principle" rubric. Likewise, the importance of the responsivity principle will be emphasized, as will individualized and meaningful case planning, intermediate correctional targets, and planning for evaluation of any new strategy.

Alex Holsinger received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 1999. Throughout his time at the University of Cincinnati and in the 17 years since he has assisted local, state, and Federal agencies implement several aspects of Evidence-Based criminal justice practice. Specifically, Alex has overseen the development, implementation and validation of several different risk and need assessment procedures for both pretrial and post-conviction environments. In addition, he has developed several original psychometric assessment procedures that are currently in use with several agencies in Kansas and Missouri. Most recently Alex has assisted with the development of both localized and national pretrial risk

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assessments, in support of pretrial decision-making and policy development. In addition to building his career within justice assessment procedures, Alex has overseen the assessment, development and implementation of effective rehabilitation treatment programming for the offender population. Email: holsingera@umkc.edu

SRO's Role in Prevention presented by Kerri Williamson

The role of an SRO on a school campus is multifaceted and definitely includes providing a safe learning environment and supporting the educational mission. One way an effective SRO program can support the educational mission is by keeping students in school and diverting youth from the juvenile justice system. This can be best accomplished through the triad responsibility of the SRO as law enforcement officer, teacher, and informal counselor. This training session will discuss how proper selection, proper training, support from school administration, and community partnerships can increase the effectiveness of an SRO program leading to crime prevention, reduction in referrals to the juvenile justice system, and a safer learning environment.

Kerri Williamson is the Training Director for the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). She holds a B.S. in Sociology from Jacksonville State University as well as a Master's degree in Education. She has 16 years of experience as a trainer in law-related education, civic education, and delinquency prevention. She is a national and international trainer and is experienced in working with school resource officers, educators, teens, and members of the legal community. She has served as a Training of Trainers instructor in numerous states and has presented internationally. Kerri has conducted school safety trainings with educators and law enforcement officers in Ukraine and across the country. She has served on the Juvenile-Justice Law-Related Education Committee for Alabama's Department of Youth Services and is experienced in curriculum development. She is married and has two sons, ages 9 and 7.

Bias in Decision-Making: Breakout Session presented by Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding – JS 1.25

This workshop will expand on the material presented in the keynote by providing more specific examples of strategies, and practices that can reduce the impact of implicit biases. Examples of how racially coded language and terminology can promote race and ethnic disparities and have an accumulative effect at every decision-point will be discussed.

Rita Cameron Wedding, Ph.D., is a professor of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University (California). Dr. Cameron Wedding's scholarship focuses on implicit bias in law enforcement, child welfare, education, and juvenile justice. Her curriculum on implicit bias is being used throughout the United States in her Implicit Bias Training the Trainer Institute. It is also integrated in the police de-escalation training for Fight Crime Invest In Kids which will be used to train over 5,000 in-service and academy officers in the U.S.

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Trauma; The Impact On the Mind, Body and Behavior – Part 1 presented by Cheryl Turner

This foundational presentation will educate attendees on the ways unresolved trauma can impact a child and adolescents brain, their physical body, and ultimately their behavior. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of how decision making processes in children and adolescents can change when threats to their safety and well-being are present in their life. Discussion will include types of trauma, resiliency, connections in the brain, triggers, trauma reactive behavior, and long term impacts that traumatized individuals may face.

Cheryl Turner, MA, LIMHP, LPC, is a trauma attachment therapist who has worked with children, adolescents, families and adults within the Lincoln community for the past 16 years. Cheryl has completed extensive training in various areas of trauma and mental health and has focused her career on helping those most in need learn the skills necessary to be successful. Cheryl currently is employed at The Center on Children, Families, and the Law as a training specialist and provides training to Child and Family Services Specialists, Lincoln Public Schools, and is a certified Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor.

Trauma; First Steps to Becoming Trauma Capable – Part 2 presented by Cheryl Turner

This presentation will build on information from the previous session to provide basic skills that attendees can be cognizant of and utilize when interacting with individuals impacted by unresolved trauma. Discussion and focus will center on approaching and working with a child or adolescent who is demonstrating that they are feeling unsafe or vulnerable through their actions and behaviors.

Behavioral Health Integration in Juvenile Justice presented by Kathy Rowings and Beth Baxter – JS 1.25

As many as 70% of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health disorder and more than 60% of those youth with a mental health disorder also have a substance use disorder. Most of these youth can be safely and more effectively treated in community settings. This session will address how counties can respond to the needs of these youth through early identification of youth with mental health needs, diversion from the system where appropriate, and timely access to appropriate treatment.

Kathy Rowings is a Justice Program Manager at the National Association of Counties. In this position she works to provide counties with educational programming on a wide range of issues addressing local corrections systems, from pretrial services to juvenile justice issues to local reentry initiatives and more, with the goal of helping counties more effectively and efficiently use public dollars. Prior to joining NACo, Kathy worked at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, where she assisted with class-action litigation under the Fair Housing Act. She has a law degree from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in English from Miami of Ohio.

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Beth Baxter serves as the Regional Administrator for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services located in Kearney. She began her work with Region 3 in 1989 first serving as the Regional Youth Specialist before assuming the lead role of Regional Administrator in 2003. Over the past 27 years she has provided leadership within central Nebraska in major reform efforts of both the child and adult behavioral health systems. Beth started her professional career as a teacher first in North Platte and then at the Youth Development Center in Kearney (Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center). Beth serves as the Chairperson of the Nebraska Children's Commission which was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 2012 to improve the safety and well-being of children and families in Nebraska and Co-Chair of the newly formed Nebraska System of Care Leadership Board. Beth holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in psychology and special education and a Master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Truancy Diversion Panel presented by Bruce Prenda, Judge Reggie Ryder, Ryan Zabawa, Russ Uhing, and Tina Bouma – JS 1.25

A collaborative effort between the Lancaster County Juvenile Court and Lincoln Public Schools. The program was created as a voluntary alternative to traditional court proceedings. The program began at Park Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2011 and has since expanded to several other middle and high schools in Lincoln. You will learn how the program differs from traditional court proceedings and why, in many ways, it works better.

Bruce Prenda, J.D., graduated from Brown University in 1987 and Creighton School of Law in 1991. He worked as a Law Clerk for Mutual of Omaha Corporate Counsel and is a Licensed attorney in Massachusetts and Nebraska. He worked for the Massachusetts Senate and Nebraska Legislature before joining the Lancaster County Attorney's Office in 1997. He worked as a criminal and juvenile court prosecutor, including a year as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. He served as lead criminal prosecutor for gang-related crime and recently assumed Chief Deputy responsibilities for the Juvenile Division within the Lancaster County Attorney's Office. He also works as Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Wesleyan University.

Reggie Ryder, J.D., graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1994. He graduated from the UNL School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1009 and worked as a Deputy Lancaster County Public Defender from 1998-2007. He was appointed as a judge to the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska in 2007 and is past president of the Juvenile Judges Association. He was the founding member of the Lancaster County Truancy Diversion Project in 2011 and one of only 11 judges in Nebraska who work exclusively in Juvenile Court.

Ryan Zabawa has served as the Principal at Park Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska for the past 8 years. Prior to that Mr. Zabawa was the Associate Principal at North Star High School in Lincoln, Nebraska for 6 years. He attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney for his undergraduate work and completed his graduate degree at Doane College.

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Russ Uhing serves as the Director of Student Services for Lincoln Public Schools. Mr. Uhing has been with LPS for over 25 years, first as a high school teacher, then moving into building administration and finally into his current role overseeing services related to school discipline, social workers and counselors, health, and attendance.

Tina Bouma, LCSW, received her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is the current School Social Worker and Truancy Diversion Coordinator at Park Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has worked with Lancaster County and Lincoln Public Schools since 2009 to implement and expand the Truancy Diversion Program in six of the Lincoln Public Schools. Previously she worked at Blue Valley Behavioral Health in Beatrice, NE as a Youth Counselor/Therapist in their Intensive Youth Treatment Services department from 2006-09.

The Outcomes of Calls for Help presented by Katie Clark and Lena Thompson

The Nebraska Family Helpline at 888-866-8660 makes it easier for families to obtain assistance with their children's behavioral and mental health concerns by providing a single point of contact 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Helpline is supervised by licensed mental health professionals. Trained Helpline counselors assist callers by, assessing immediate safety needs, identifying the potential level of a behavioral health crisis, making recommendations or referrals to appropriate resources, and helping them connect to emergency resources or providers. Every caller will speak to someone. So, no matter how great or how small the caller's concerns, everyone will have a voice. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services contracts with Boys Town to provide the Nebraska Family Helpline.

2-1-1 is a free, confidential referral and information helpline and website that connects people from all communities and of all ages to the essential health and human services they need, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone or computer. A toll-free call to 2-1-1 connects you to a community resource specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations that provide critical services that can improve – and save – lives.

Katie Clark, M.S., LPC, is the Program Manager of the Nebraska Family Helpline at Boys Town. The Helpline began in 2010 in response to Nebraska's "Safe Haven Crisis" which highlighted the need for access to services for parents with children that are experiencing mental and behavioral health concerns. Katie received her Masters of Science Degree in Mental Health Counseling from Bellevue University in 2006. She began her career at Boys Town in 2004 as an assistant family teacher then moved to the Boys Town National Hotline, and has been with the Nebraska Family Helpline since its inception in 2010. She has served as the Helpline Clinical Supervisor, and now Program Manager.

Lena Thompson is the Senior Director of the 2-1-1 Call Center which is hosted by the United Way of the Midlands. 2-1-1 is a one stop shop to connect individuals in need to the community resources that can help. The 2-1-1 call center has the ability to cover the entire state of Nebraska and 9 counties in Southwest Iowa. Lena holds a Bachelor of Science from the

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University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is certified as an Information and Referral Specialist through the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) and is a graduate of Heartland Blueprint and Influence.

Using a Service Coordination Model to Address School Absenteeism
presented by Treva Haugaard, Brigid Howard, and Rebecka Theurer

The Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services (GOALS) Center is a nonprofit serving the Douglas and Sarpy County, NE, public schools since 2011. Offering case management services and utilizing a wraparound approach with a prevention philosophy, the GOALS Center intercepts students of a compulsory attendance age who are demonstrating school attendance problems and, together with their families, breaks down barriers to attendance to ameliorate the need for court intervention.

Treva Haugaard is the Executive Director of the GOALS Center. She has been with the organization since August 2012. Previous to this position she spent approximately 16 years in the areas of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice working within the community and court system. She holds a Masters in Social Work and Public Administration.

Brigid Howard is the Quality Assurance Coordinator at the GOALS Center. She has been with the organization since September 2013. She holds a Master of Arts in Sociology and has been working in agency-based research & evaluation for 13 years with many publications to her name.

Rebecka Theurer is the Lead Family Advocate at the GOALS Center. She has been with the organization since October 2011. Previous to this position she worked for Health and Human Services as a Juvenile Parole Officer. She holds a Masters of Public Administration.

Drug Testing: A Review of Best Practices – Parts 1 & 2 *presented by Paul Cary – JS 1.25/session & SM 1.25/session*

Effective drug testing in criminal justice is essential to the overall success of the program. This presentation is designed for both new and experienced team members who want a comprehensive review designed to provide evidence-based strategies for building and maintaining a successful abstinence monitoring program. Attendees will learn the reasons for testing, how to select clients for maximum abstinence surveillance, what specimens yield the best results, appropriate collection strategies and how to interpret results. Additional focus issues will include controlling sample tampering and the use of creatinine measurements, the application of EtG/EtS monitoring, dispelling popular drug testing myths and much more. This skills building session is intended to encourage court practitioners to know more about drug testing than their clients.

Paul L. Cary, M.S., retired as director of Toxicology and Drug Monitoring Laboratory at University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia Missouri in 2015. For forty years, Mr. Cary was actively

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involved in the management of a nationally-recognized toxicology laboratory that performed drug testing for drug courts, hospitals, mental health facilities, attorneys, coroners and medical examiners, athletic programs, and public and private employers. He has authored numerous scientific publications and monographs, has served on a variety of clinical and technical advisory committees, taught at the university, is involved in drug testing research, and serves as a consultant in toxicology-related matters. Mr. Cary has also provided judicial education including lecturing at the National Judicial College on alcohol pharmacology, the use of expert testimony and on drug testing issues. He has been certified as an expert and provided expert testimony in court (local, state, and federal) and in labor arbitration and is a member of the Society of Forensic Toxicology. Mr. Cary has been a resource to drug court teams throughout the nation and overseas and serves as visiting faculty for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Center for Court Innovation, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National Drug Court Institute. Email: carypl@health.missouri.edu

*The G.R.E.A.T. Program: Building Safer Communities One Child at a Time
presented by Sgt. Lori Cooper – JS 1.25*

The Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program is an evidence-based gang and violence prevention program that has been building trust between law enforcement and communities for almost 30 years. G.R.E.A.T. is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership, designed for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior. G.R.E.A.T. is built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula with a continuum of components for children and their families, including separate curricula for elementary and middle school students, a summer day-camp component, and a six-session family component. This presentation will introduce the program and how it works, present the evidence for its effectiveness, and discuss the resources needed for implementation.

Lori Cooper is a 23 year veteran of the Chicago Police Department. Currently she is the Commanding Officer of the Special Activities Section which includes the Civil Rights Hate Crimes Unit, the School Visitation Section, the Crisis Intervention Team, and the Honor Guard. She is an International trainer for the G.R.E.A.T. Program and has been an instructor for G.R.E.A.T. since 2000.

*Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs presented by Matt Baker,
Jessica Hoback, and Terrence Mackey – JS 1.25*

This panel will discuss what gangs and gang trends are happening in each of their cities. There is a great deal of effort going into the prevention and intervention of these trends and panelists will discuss what they are doing as well as the successes and struggles of these efforts. Each city has its own unique gang issues which must be approached in different ways.

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Matthew Baker is the outreach coordinator for Operation Tipping Point. He currently does outreach gang prevention work with youth and the community in Lincoln, Nebraska. Matt works on goals and redefining youth's self-identity. He collaborates with other agencies throughout Lincoln to provide the best resource available for youths and families. Matt has 15 years of experience working with at-risk youth which includes the Youth Assessment Center, Winnebago Youth Shelter, and CEDARS Youth Services.

Jessica Hoback is the Crime Analyst for the Grand Island Police Department. Jessica obtained her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Chadron State College and her Master's degree in Management from Doane College. Jessica worked as a deputy sheriff with the Hall County Sheriff's Office for nearly 15 years. In 2013, Jessica began her career as Crime Analyst with the Grand Island Police Department. She is a current member on the International Association of Crime Analysts.

Terrence Mackey, also known as T-Mack or Coach T-Mack, is a Gang Specialist for North Omaha through the Omaha Police Department and Director of Football and Basketball League Director for North Omaha Boys & Girls Club. He graduated from Bellevue University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. T-Mack has been volunteering at North Omaha Boys & Girls Club since the early 1980's, grew up in the North Omaha Boys Club and is a product of North Omaha. He worked for 15 years at the Douglas County Youth Center working with at-risk youth and is a previous Director of Late Night Teen Program at North Omaha Boys & Girls Club. He is a proud husband, father of 3, and grandfather of 4, who continues to be involved in their lives as well as a lifelong member of the Salem Baptist Church. He is always seeking an opportunity to utilize education, training skills, and work experience to make a difference in the life of a youth.

Local Diversion Trends/Outcomes presented by Dr. Anne Hobbs – JS 1.25

Evidence-based practices for reducing youth involvement in the legal system have garnered attention over the past few decades. Research has demonstrated that one predictor for negative long-term outcomes, is a youth's unnecessary involvement in the juvenile justice system (Wilson and Petersilla, 2011). Diversion programs are a common approach to avoiding unnecessary involvement, so it is important to know what diversion interventions are effective at preventing system involvement. This session will explore Nebraska's trends in diversion interventions and outcomes.

Anne Hobbs, J.D., Ph.D., is an attorney and research faculty as well as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Anne serves on a number of state and local subcommittees and initiatives. In this capacity she has been involved in legislative reform regarding how juvenile are prosecuted in Nebraska. Her professional interests involve racial inequality, juvenile reentry after incarceration and mentoring youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

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Refugee Juvenile Justice Advocate Program presented by Nicky Clark and Elizabeth Ajongo – JS 1.25

This session will provide an overview of refugee populations in Nebraska. We will analyze how the current juvenile justice system works with refugees and how that impacts the community. The roles of refugees, service providers, and administrators in culturally responsive programs will be discussed, as well as strategies to successfully engage with refugee families.

Nicky Clark is the Program Director of Community Education at Heartland Family Service and holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has been working with refugee populations from Burma, Bhutan, Sudan, and Somalia for over five years, primarily in the areas of early childhood education and the juvenile justice system. Prior to that she worked in refugee resettlement. Clark has also worked with at-risk children in Nicaragua and Chile, and has volunteered as a soccer coach for teens from Burma with PACE. Her interest has been in educating American systems in how to effectively work with refugees, while also guiding refugees through the complex American systems. She is dedicated to making Omaha a welcoming community for people from all over the world.

Elizabeth Ajongo is a refugee from South Sudan and was resettled in Omaha in 2001. She speaks Dinka and Arabic languages. She is currently the Refugee Juvenile Justice Advocate Coordinator at Heartland Family Service and was instrumental in developing and implementing the program from its inception. She has worked with Southern Sudan Community Association (now Refugee Empowerment Center) and served as board president of the agency from 2011 to 2014. Ajongo has also worked with African and Asian refugees in school readiness and tobacco-free education. She holds a Bachelor in Social Work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is currently pursuing a Master in Leadership and Coaching from Bellevue University's College of Business. Her passion is making a difference in the refugee community.

Don't Feed the System: Diverting at Multiple System Points presented by Bruce Prenda, Russ Uhing, Captain Jason Stille and Becky Steiner – JS 1.25

Diverting youth out of the system can occur at multiple system points in a variety of ways. This workshop will explore policies and procedures in place to ensure the right youth receive the right response to their behavior. The Early Assessment Program, Diversion and Intensive Diversion, and Project RESTORE will be highlighted in the workshop. A special focus will be placed on effective collaboration across multi-systems to divert youth.

Bruce Prenda, J.D., graduated from Brown University in 1987 and Creighton School of Law in 1991. He worked as a Law Clerk for Mutual of Omaha Corporate Counsel and is a Licensed attorney in Massachusetts and Nebraska. He worked for the Massachusetts Senate and Nebraska Legislature before joining the Lancaster County Attorney's Office in 1997. He worked as a criminal and juvenile court prosecutor, including a year as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. He served as lead criminal prosecutor for gang-related crime and recently assumed

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Chief Deputy responsibilities for the Juvenile Division within the Lancaster County Attorney's Office. He also works as Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Wesleyan University.

Russ Uhing serves as the Director of Student Services for Lincoln Public Schools. Mr. Uhing has been with LPS for over 25 years, first as a high school teacher, then moving into building administration and finally into his current role overseeing services related to school discipline, social workers and counselors, health, and attendance.

Captain Jason Stille has been a member of the Lincoln Police Department since 1997. Captain Stille has been a member of the SWAT Team since 2003 and currently operates as team commander. During his career with LPD, he has served as a duty commander, training sergeant, TIU investigator, accident reconstructionist, traffic unit officer, and as an instructor in numerous disciplines. Captain Stille holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice/History from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He has also completed coursework from Northwestern University on Supervising Police Personnel and from Georgetown University on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities. He serves as an instructor for the International Association of Chiefs of Police in the area of leadership.

Becky Steiner is currently the Juvenile Justice Coordinator for Lancaster County. Becky has over 17 years of experience working in the juvenile justice field; including experience working with residential programs along with community based services. Becky is a graduate from Wayne State College with a degree in Human Service Counseling.

To Divert or Not to Divert? Screening and Assessment Practices for Diversion-Related Decisions *presented by Dr. Gina Vincent – JS 1.25*

One important step when creating a diversion practice is to establish the criteria for selecting which youth to divert. These decisions involve striking a balance between maximizing positive youth outcomes while protecting public safety and not widening the net. Reliable and valid screening or assessment instruments are an essential part of this process. This presentation will review key concepts related to the selection and implementation of two types of screening tools for diversion-related decisions: risk for recidivism and behavioral health screening. Implementation of both types of screening will maximize the benefits and success of a diversion practice.

Gina Vincent, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor, Co-Director of the Law & Psychiatry Program in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and is on the faculty of the Massachusetts Center of Excellence for Specialty Courts. She is also President of the National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP), a MacArthur Foundation Models for Change technical assistance center for assisting juvenile justice agencies with the selection and implementation of mental health and risk assessments. Dr. Vincent has a young investigator's award from NIDA to conduct neuroimaging on youth with substance abuse

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problems. She also has received funding from NIMH and the MacArthur Foundation for studies relevant to risk for reoffending and the implementation of risk assessment tools, mental health problems, and substance abuse among youth involved in the juvenile justice system. She has published, lectured, and presented research at over 100 international and national conferences and juvenile justice facilities in the areas of risk/needs assessment, adolescent substance abuse, and mental health symptoms in juvenile justice. She is author of the recent publication *Risk Assessment in Juvenile Probation: A Guidebook for Implementation*.

Local Crisis Response Panel *presented by Jenny Stewart and Beth Baxter*

A Mental Health Crisis is an intensive behavioral, emotional, or psychiatric response triggered by a precipitating event that results in an emergency situation that may include a moderate to high risk of harm to self or others, or placement of an individual in a more restrictive setting. Learn about a multi-layer crisis response service array providing trauma-informed crisis services in the least restrictive, appropriate and safe setting possible. Crisis Response provides crisis intervention and stabilization services on a 24-hour, 7-day/week basis for individuals experiencing periodic or acute episodes of mental health and/or substance use disorders. There will also be a discussion of the partnership between the Behavioral Health Regions and the Administrative Office of Probation to expand crisis response services across Nebraska to serve juveniles.

Jenny Stewart, LMHC, LMHP, IADC, serves as the Director for Crisis Response Services for Heartland Family Service in Omaha, Nebraska. She provides direct administration and supervision of the staff providing crisis response services in Iowa and Nebraska. Jenny assumes the lead and oversees development and implementation of day-to-day policies and procedures for Crisis Response Services and is responsible for grant/contract management to include coordination and delivery of services per grant/contract specifications, compliance with billing requirements, and compilation and submission of reports to funders. In addition, she monitors program quality and prepares quarterly reports documenting key indicators and quality improvement plans and provides crisis intervention and assessment of clients for law enforcement, including juvenile probation. The Crisis Response Teams she supervises are responsible for determining client needs and makes recommendations and referrals to appropriate level of care. Jenny serves as a liaison and maintains relationships with law enforcement agencies, hospital personnel, and other key community resources and provides mental health training to law enforcement and key stakeholders.

Beth Baxter serves as the Regional Administrator for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services located in Kearney. She began her work with Region 3 in 1989 first serving as the Regional Youth Specialist before assuming the lead role of Regional Administrator in 2003. Over the past 27 years she has provided leadership within central Nebraska in major reform efforts of both the child and adult behavioral health systems. Beth started her professional career as a teacher first in North Platte and then at the Youth Development Center in Kearney (Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center). Beth serves as the Chairperson of the Nebraska Children's Commission

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which was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 2012 to improve the safety and well-being of children and families in Nebraska and Co-Chair of the newly formed Nebraska System of Care Leadership Board. Beth holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in psychology and special education and a Master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Nebraska System of Care presented by Kathy Rowings, Tamara Gavin, and Betty Medinger – JS 1.25

Through the power of partnerships, the Nebraska System of Care (NeSOC) creates a comprehensive and sustainable system of care that is youth guided, family-driven, trauma-informed and culturally responsive to improve outcomes for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families. Committed partnerships among public and private agencies, families and youth have emerged under one umbrella called the NeSOC Collaborative to drive the work of the system.

Kathy Rowings is a Justice Program Manager at the National Association of Counties. In this position she works to provide counties with educational programming on a wide range of issues addressing local corrections systems, from pretrial services to juvenile justice issues to local reentry initiatives and more, with the goal of helping counties more effectively and efficiently use public dollars. Prior to joining NACo, Kathy worked at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, where she assisted with class-action litigation under the Fair Housing Act. She has a law degree from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in English from Miami of Ohio.

Tamara Gavin, LCSW, is the Deputy Director of Community Based Services for the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health. In her current capacity, she will oversee the development and implementation of the Nebraska System of Care. She has over 15 years of experience working in the Nebraska youth service system, having worked in child welfare and juvenile justice, residential youth programs and providing therapy to Nebraska youth and families. Additional experience includes serving as the Clinical Director for Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska prior to joining the Division of Behavioral Health.

Betty Medinger, LCSW, is Senior Vice President with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. She began her employment with Nebraska Children in January 2013 after retiring from 27 years with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services having worked in the Lincoln and southeast counties of Nebraska and in state level administration with child welfare and economic assistance programs. Additional experience includes work in a non-profit child serving organization, independent consultation in NE and CO, and being adjunct faculty with Southeast Community College and Wesleyan University. Betty's work at Nebraska Children includes state/local partners, public/private funders to support cradle to career opportunity for children and families. Betty is married Dennis Medinger, has two sons, and two grandchildren.

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Trauma and Recovery presented by Tonier “Neen” Cain

The goal of this session is to provide training for participants to understand the importance of designing and individualized treatment plan for consumers. The Trauma and Recovery presentation will give trainees the components of a Trauma Informed Care plan which can be used towards better understanding the impact trauma has on an individual and to prevent doing more harm. Objectives include: providing the definition of trauma and trauma-informed services and practices; key principles, core assumptions and core elements trauma-informed organizations and services; comparison of traditional human service settings and practices with those that are trauma-informed; prevalence rates of trauma histories among persons served in different mental health and human services settings; developing safety plans that look at triggers, warning signs, and coping strategies as a means of preventing situations that can lead to the use of seclusion and restraint; and understanding the personal experience of trauma, and working to promote recovery.

Tonier “Neen” Cain is a consumer advocate who speaks all over the world on trauma, incarceration, and recovery; she is former team leader for the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care, with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; the CEO and founder of Healing Neen, Inc.; featured in the *documentary “Behind Closed Doors: Trauma Survivors and the Psychiatric System”*; the subject and co-producer of *“Healing Neen,”* a documentary distributed on five continents and based on her life as she moved through multiple systems of care; the executive producer of the film *“Walking Thru Bullets”*; advisor for the upcoming film *“Like Any Other Kid”*; an author; the recipient of many awards including three proclamations from two governors and a mayor, naming days after Ms. Cain; Founder and President of the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization Neen Cares, Inc.; and Founder and Co-CEO of a Global 501(c)3 nonprofit MET-R Integrated Health. After surviving a childhood of unspeakable sexual abuse, unrelenting violence, and betrayal by systems that were charged with helping, Ms. Tonier Cain stands before her audiences today, a testimony to the resiliency of the human spirit exemplifying the innate human instinct to survive.

Making Family Engagement Real in the Juvenile Justice System presented by Tracy Levins – JS 1.25

Family engagement is critical for youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system. Families need information, training, and support to help them become knowledgeable about the juvenile justice system and how to be effective advocates for their children. At the same time, juvenile justice systems need to ensure that their policies and procedures support active family engagement and that staff are trained to better understand the family perspective, the benefits of family involvement, and specific strategies for engaging families. In this dynamic and interactive presentation, participants will learn the importance of positive family engagement, the challenges experienced by families involved in the juvenile justice system, and practical ways to create meaningful opportunities to engage families and promote effective partnerships.

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Tracy A. Levins, Ph.D., has over 25 years of experience in the juvenile justice and the mental health systems, has worked with communities, organizations, policymakers, and professionals throughout Texas to help youth access the services and resources they need. She was active in the reform efforts of the Texas juvenile justice system and was an active partner in Texas' work as a Models for Change site and the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network, funded by the MacArthur Foundation. For the past few years, Dr. Levins has provided consultation, training, and technical assistance related to family engagement within the juvenile justice system to a number of states and jurisdictions through her collaborations with the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, and the Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Collaborative for Change. She was a 2010 nominee for Outstanding Woman in Texas Government for her work to develop the first-ever Parents' Bill of Rights for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (then the Texas Youth Commission), implementing the family liaison initiative in state juvenile correctional facilities, and co-authoring the inaugural comprehensive Family Handbook entitled *Understanding the Texas Juvenile Justice Department*.